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The Balance, AND COLUMBIAN REPOSITORY.

" HAIL SACRED POLITY, BY FREEDOM REAR'D !
" HAIL SACRED FREEDOM, WHEN BY LAW RESTRAIN'D !"
BEATTIE.

HUDSON, (New-York) TUESDAY, August 2, 1803.

Original Eſſays.

Hither the products of your closet-labors bring,
Enrich our columns, and inſtruct mankind.

FOR THE BALANCE.

A POLITICAL CATECHISM.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

Queſtion. IN what eſtimation do you hold the liberty of the preſs ?

Anſwer. I venerate it as the ark of our political ſafety—as the protecting ſhield of all our other privileges.—The freedom of the preſs has been my favourite toaſt—the darling theme, that has awakened all my ſenſibilities. Witneſs, ye venerable ſhades of Fauſtus and Franklin, with what fervours of zeal have I expatiated on this ſubject, while liſtening crowds hung upon my lips ! Witneſs with what execration I loaded the authors of that inſtrument of tyranny, the Sedition Law !—While I have a heart to feel, a tongue to ſpeak, and a hand to act, I will never deſert this ſacred cauſe. Ye powers above record my vow—I ſolemnly proteſt that " I am ready to ſhed the laſt drop of my blood in defence of the liberty of the preſs."

(Here the reſpondent is ſuppoſed to lay one hand on his breaſt, and to brandiſh the other hand in a moſt violent manner : and in uttering the words, " I am ready to ſhed the laſt drop of my blood," he is ſuppoſed to turn a little pale.)

Q. Was the Sedition Law really an act of treaſon againſt the rights of the people ?

A. It was downright treaſon againſt the freedom of the preſs ; it was treaſon againſt the dignity and majeſty of the people, and againſt their deareſt rights. It was the moſt tyrannical, the moſt abominable, the moſt horrible, the moſt accurſed act, that ever was paſſed in a free country ; and ſuch I have always declared it to be. That execrable law gagged and throttled every printing preſs in the land, that was worthy of countenance and ſupport.

Q. Did the Sedition Law repreſs the publication of *truth*, or deny the privilege of giving truth in evidence ?

A. The Sedition Law permitted the truth in evidence ; but that circumſtance was a mere farce, a mockery. It was permitting the aggrieved party to avail themſelves of impoſſibilities !—a downright inſult upon the underſtandings of men ! It was for promoting the beſt intereſts of the people, that the wickedneſs and treaſons of the former adminiſtrations had been expoſed. Waſhington had been denounced as " the man who had given currency to political iniquity, and had legaliſed corruption"—Adams had been called a hoary headed traitor, and had been charged with the murder of Jonathan Robbins—Jay had been accuſed of having been bribed with Britiſh Gold—Pickering of robbing the public treaſury of millions of dollars—Wolcott of burning the war-office, to conceal the knavery of the officers. Theſe charges had been circulating throughout the union, and they ought to circulate, without check or hindrance, for the information of the abuſed people; but tho' their truth was as clear as a ſunbeam, they could not be proved in a court of juſtice ; and for this plain reaſon, becauſe they were not of a *proveable* nature. Therefore the Sedition Law, inviting proof, when it was well-known that proof was no where to be found, did but add inſult to injury.

Q. In what manner did the paſſing the Sedition Law affect the characters of the former adminiſtration ?

A. The Sedition Law mortally wounded the characters of thoſe who paſſed it. It was the engine that pulled them down and plunged them in diſgrace. The legiſlature of Virginia made and publiſhed ſpirited reſolutions againſt the Sedition act : thoſe reſolutions were circulated over the United States. An inſtantaneous alarm was given through the country. Every where was it declared that the *preſs* was ſhackled—that a blow had been aimed at the vitals of liberty—that the officers of government were wickedly plotting to hide their own villainy by ſuppreſſing free enquiry—that their reign had been " the reign of terror"—that the people were to be kept in ignorance of the doings of their rulers—that while they were thus hoodwinked, the yoke of ſlavery was intended to be rivetted on their necks. The happieſt effects were produced ; the people were electrified ; they were arouſed ; they were ſtruck with horror ; they were filled with indignation :—they chaſed from office thoſe corrupt men who had paſſed the Sedition Law, and ſupplied their places with characters diſtinguiſhed for their patriotiſm.

Q. Since the reign of terror is ended, and the reign of equity and mildneſs has commenced, what is the liberal indulgence that is now given to the preſs ?

A. Beſides the *ex-officers* of the former adminiſtrations, Mr. *Burr* the ſecond magiſtrate in the nation, is alſo given up to the printers, as free and lawful plunder; and I have almoſt burſt my ſides with laughing, to ſee with what art and induſtry our *imported* patriots, Duane and Cheetham, have hunted him down, while the ſubalterns all ſet up their barking and followed the chaſe.

Q. Is not your party indebted to the talents and influence of Mr. Burr for its triumph over the federaliſts?

A. This debt is cancelled.—Mr. Burr is excommunicated; he lies under the *bann* of our church; he is an outlaw: it has been diſcovered that he eat and drank with heretics—that he even offered, as a toaſt, this abominable, this treaſonable ſentiment, "*the union of all honeſt men.*" That man has ſinned beyond the hopes of mercy;—floods of tears would not avail to waſh away his crimes:—The *bull* of the holy *Vatican* is thundered againſt him; its anathemas are poured upon his devoted head—and all patriotic printers are in duty bound to denounce him as a traitor, and to compare him to Benedict Arnold.*

[TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.]

* Mr. Burr has been actually denounced as a traitor, and has even been compared to Benedict Arnold, in some of the democratic papers.

FOR THE BALANCE.

MR. DENNIS in his ſpeech in Congreſs, in favour of the Sedition Law, produced a letter of Mr. Jefferſon, dated Paris, Aug. 28, 1789; wherein Mr. Jefferſon expreſſed his wiſh that the following article ſhould be added to the federal conſtitution; namely: "The people ſhall not be deprived of their right to ſpeak, to write, or otherwiſe publiſh any thing *but falſe facts*, affecting injuriouſly the life, liberty, property or reputation of others." Now ſuppoſe, the moment after this paragraph was penned, that ſome inſpired ſeer had ſtood before that auguſt perſonage and addreſſed him in the following manner: "Great ſir, it is revealed to me that you will be preſident of the United States; and that under your adminiſtration, there will be attended the funeral obſequies of the freedom of the preſs. To promote party views and to glut the vengeance of a furious individual, *truth* ſhall be denounced as a libel; and the publication of *truth*, when tending to diſparage *your* perſon or meaſures, ſhall be inhibited by awful penalties."

If ſuch a prophet had, at that time, appeared and uttered this prediction, what indignation would it have excited in the patriotic boſom of our preſident?—Who among his friends, but would have been fired with a deſire of puniſhing the ſuppoſed impoſtor?—Yet what have we lately ſeen?—Ah! who dares fully relate what we have ſeen?

ANTI-JACOBIN.

Balance Closet.

We had concluded to commence, in this week's paper, a complete and impartial hiſtory of the trial of the junior editor; and, although it cannot be denied that the late unfair publication in the Bee, would furniſh a ſufficient excuſe for doing ſo; ſtill, a reſpect which we ſhall ever owe to the higheſt judicial tribunal of the ſtate, has induced us to poſtpone the publication, until after the riſing of the Supreme Court, now in ſeſſion at Albany.

We have found by experience, that to detect the Bee in telling a falſhood, has no other effect than to provoke the inſect to a repetition of the ſame fiction, or to the fabrication of a number of freſh ones. This may eaſily be accounted for. Holt's Bee was ſettled in Hudſon, as other Bees are generally brought to the hive, that is, *by the ſound of metal.* A ſum of money was made up by ſubſcription, and the Bee was taken upon leaſe. Every democrat who contributed a dollar to the purchaſe, claims the right of furniſhing his quota of nonſenſe or falſhoods, or both, to fill its columns. Hence the moſt flagrant violations of truth are ſent to the Bee under the head of "Communications," or under fictitious ſignatures, and Holt gives them publicity. Both printer and writer find an excuſe for their conduct, ready furniſhed, in the old fable of the *Two Thieves in the Butcher's Stall*:—Holt ſwears he does not *write* the falſhoods—The writers ſwear, they don't *publiſh* them.—O, precious printer! O, precious writers! O, precious, precious, democrats!

When we detected *three* plump falſhoods which the Bee recently publiſhed concerning the real number of our ſubſcribers, &c. we did not expect that the inſect would either retract them, or make any apology for their inſertion. We ſhould ſuſpect Tom Paine of being a chriſtain, and look for honeſty and fair dealing from the Bee, at preciſely the ſame moment. One is as much impoſſible as the other. The perſon who manufactured the three falſhoods, has, in the laſt Bee, attempted to ſupport them; and we beg the reader's indulgence, while we purſue him thr'o his crooked track, and expoſe his miſrepreſentations. He ſays "It has always been the practice of the editors of the Balance, to declare the contents of the Bee to be falſe, and, on the contrary, whatever appears in their paper, to be invariable truths." Unfortunately for the Bee, it has always *happened* that ſuch a declaration could be ſupported by poſitive and ample proof. A number of inſtances might here be ſtated; but it is needleſs. The facts are before the public, where they will have their due weight.

Now, leaſt we ſhould not completely gratify the Bee, we will proceed with the production, ſentence by ſentence.

"The editors of the Balance ſay that it "is *falſe* that they preſerve two hundred "copies of their paper weekly."

Yes, ſir—they do ſo—and they humbly conceive that they are better acquainted with their own affairs, than any democrat can poſſibly be.

"Very well, gentlemen—we think you "muſt be hardened indeed in falſhood to "deny this fact ſo boldly, and right in "the face of truth too."

How charmingly a democrat can talk about being "hardened in falſhood." This fellow would have the public believe that he knows more of the buſineſs of the Balance-office, than the editors themſelves.

"Are you not ſenſible, Meſſrs. Editors, "that the boy who packs up your papers "weekly knows this to be a falſhood?"

The boy who packs up the paper weekly, knows the whole truth. He knows that the Bee has told falſhoods enough about this affair, to choak an honeſt man.

"What do you call preſerving papers? "If you put them up in bundles, encloſed "in wrapping paper, ſecured by twine, "and laid away in ſome ſafe place, do you "not call this preſerving them?"

Undoubtedly, Mr. Wiſdom—particularly if the place where they are laid, is out of the reach of ſuch perſons as the writer we are now anſwering.

"That you have now packed away in "your office bundles containing two hun-"dred of your papers, all of one date, we "know to be true."

Stop—not ſo faſt. You know of no ſuch thing.

"And that you now calculate every "week to have two hundred papers left, "after your ſubſcribers, agents, correſ-"ponding printers, &c. are ſupplied, we "alſo know to be *as true.*"

As true! Yes—preciſely *as true*—for both aſſertions are falſe.

"That your papers might have fallen "ſhort one or two weeks we pretend not "to deny; but if you ſay that you do not "calculate to preſerve that number of pa-"pers weekly, we believe you aſſert a "moſt ſhameful falſhood."

Well, ſir—we do ſay that we do not calculate to preſerve two hundred of our papers weekly; and we care as little about your *belief* as your *aſſertions.*

"Yes reader, one of the editors of that "paper has been heard to declare that they "intended at the end of the year to have "two hundred files of their paper left, "which they calculated to bind. We "think this is ſufficient to convince every "candid reader that the aſſertion in the "Bee of week before laſt was *not falſe.*"

Here, then, the riddle is solved at once. The fact is simply this. At the commencement of the present year the editors had concluded to reserve 200 papers for binding. These papers were of course packed up. But the demand for complete sets has been so great, that many of them have since been taken from each week's papers for the purpose of supplying new subscribers. Indeed we have been obliged to *reprint* several numbers. That we *now* preserve two hundred papers weekly, or that we did preserve that number, when the Bee asserted it, or that we calculate to have that number on hand at the end of the year, is *absolutely false*. Of the files which we actually preserve, a great number are already subscribed for.

"With respect to the number of papers "which they send to printers, post-masters, &c. we were not positive. We "might have been a little out of the way; "however, we believe we were not far. "We stated the number sent to post-masters, agents, &c. to be *about fifty*, "when the number published in the Balance is *only forty-five*? so much for "this falshood."

The only reply we have to make to this evasive sentence is, that, of our agents, but a very small number receive the paper *gratis*. Thus our several charges stand good against the Bee, and furnish additional proof of its total want of correctness and truth.—But to conclude—

"If we were as incorrect respecting the "printers, those editors are requested to "rectify us by stating the exact number of "papers they send in exchange for oth-"ers."

That you was incorrect we have already declared; but you must excuse us, good Mr. Bee, from the task of stating the exact number, &c. We do not know what business you have to pry into our concerns. We choose to "manage our own affairs in our own way." You have told falshoods, and you may, if you please, retract them, and in future, mind your own business. We cannot waste time in gratifying the impertinent curiosity of a democrat.—Good day to you.

The Bee, with its usual effrontery, has accused us of publishing a false account of the reception of certain toasts, drank by the Mechanics at Mr. Stocking's tavern, on the fourth of July; and to give the accusation more weight, says it is "from *federal authority*." We are glad to see that the Bee begins to be sensible that any thing published on its own authority, would be good for nothing; but the pitiful attempt to palm an abominable falshood upon the public, under pretence of its coming from "federal authority," shall not pass unnoticed. We do not believe that any *federalist* has *authorised* the Bee to contradict our statement. In common with every other man in the community, we place no reliance whatever on mere Bee-assertions.

The statement which we published, was made from our own personal knowledge. One of the editors was present while the toasts were drank, and particularly noticed every transaction. Though, he thinks it needless to attempt to strengthen his declaration, by other proof, still he is willing to take some trouble to convince the public that the Bee is totally regardless of truth, honesty, decency or candor.

We copy the whole article from the Bee, to shew the reader with what matchless impudence, a democratic printer can tell falshoods. The assertion that we publish "erroneous and false statements without any intention of acknowledging or correcting them," is a base and rascally calumny.—No instance of the kind can be mentioned; whereas the instances in which we have detected the Bee in such conduct, are almost innumerable.

[FROM THE BEE.]

"I have waited a week to see whether the Balance editors would correct the false account in their paper of the 12th inst. of the reception of certain toasts drank by the mechanics at Mr. Stocking's on the 4th. But I have waited in vain, for it seems they still adhere to their old practice of publishing erroneous and false statements witout any intention of acknowledging or correcting their errors. They say, both political sects partook of the entertainment; "but the manner in which they [the toasts] were received evidenced the spirit that prevailed at the board. When the President of the United States was given no person rose from his seat, no applauding hand was raised, not a whisper of approbation was heard. But when the *late* President was toasted the company rose to a man and gave three hearty cheers." Not believing their story or that any republican would conduct in such a manner. I was led to enquire into the truth of it, and the fact is, as I have it from *federal authority*, that no such distinction was made, and that the company *rose* at *every toast*, the Balance *say so* to the contrary notwithstanding."

As this is not an *indictment at Common Law*, but is merely an arraignment before the bar of the public, we humbly hope that we may be permitted to *give the truth in evidence*. The following certificates are therefore offered without comment:—

THIS is to certify that the subscribers were present at Mr. Stocking's Inn, on the 4th inst. when the toasts were drank by the company of mechanics—that when "the president of the United States" was given as a toast, no person rose from his seat, nor otherwise expressed any approbation—that when "the *late* president" was toasted, the company rose to a man, and gave three cheers.

ASA FRARY.

[Another gentleman has signed this certificate, but not having his permission, we decline inserting his name.]

Hudson, 28th July, 1803.

AS there has been a trifling misconception in the minds of some, concerning the conduct of the company that dined at Mr. Stocking's Inn, on the 4th inst. we think proper to give the following statement:—

That a short time before the day above mentioned, a number of persons engaged to partake of an entertainment at the place above recited; they also pledged themselves that the toasts, and the conduct of the company, as far as was in their power, should be so ordered as to give offence to no one; that men of both political sects were present, and spent the day in perfect harmony.—We further say, that when the toasts were given at the board, by the President and Vice-President for the day, they both rose from their seats, at each toast; but the company did not rise nor cheer, until a number of toasts were drank; they then began cheering, and according to the best of our recollection, cheer'd or applauded every toast that was afterwards given.—This part of the conduct of the company we are very confident was perfectly accidental; as we know of no previous arrangement on that head, nor did we ever hear a word mentioned as to the manner in which they should be received.

JOHN T. LACY,
LEVERETT CRITTENDEN.

To shew that this last statement is direct proof of our account, it is only necessary to mention that "the president of the U. States," was given for the *third* toast—and "the *late* president," was the *seventh*.

It appears that Buel & Mitchell are only the ostensible editors of the "vulgar, low, mean person," alias "Plebeian," of Kingston, but that a certain *strong-arm'd* General is the real "squibman" [a word of Mitchell's coining] of that paper. This valorous quill-driver has nearly died of joy at the late mishap of a poor *Wasp*.—For shame, General;—your boyish exultation, may raise a suspicion that even the sting of a wasp could terrify a *soldier*. Put up thy sword, most noble General

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There are many honest men among *democrats*; but a thorough *jacobin* is rotten and maggotty, both in brain and in the very core of his heart: he is, in the political body, what an ulcer or a cancer is, in the natural body. A jacobin is like the tyrant Procrustus, who attempted to bring all his guests exactly to the length of his iron bedstead; by stretching those who were too short, and lopping off the feet of such as were too long. A jacobin never considers, that, as opinion is not an act of the will, but depends on the view of the understanding, no man is master even of his *own* opinions, so as to be able to believe just as he pleases; and much less has a right to claim authority over the opinions of others:—he would, with Robespierrian violence, bring every human mind to the square of his own creed; and instead of attempting to confute a supposed political error by fair arguments, would be glad to burn or gibbet the person that holds it.

These remarks apply to one Walker, the conductor of a paper at Utica. Walker, in his delirium, thinking that he espies heresy in the "Political Sketches" lately published in the Balance, flies at the *person* that he supposes to be the writer of the sketches, *tooth and claw*, with all the fury of a wounded wild cat; but with the *impotence* of a *kitten*.

This Jacobin is advised to suppress his rage, (unless there should be danger of its bursting his heart,) and to wait till all the numbers of the Political Sketches shall be published; when he will perceive (if he is not as blind as a *mole*) that the design of the writer is not to oppose or discourage *real* republicanism in *this* country; but to give warning of the dangers with which it is threatened.

Agricultural.

FOR THE BALANCE.

ANALOGY BETWEEN ANIMALS AND VEGETABLES.

THE animal and vegetable kingdoms lie near to each other; and their productions bear, the one to the other, a conſiderable reſemblance. Animals inhale and perſpire; and ſo alſo do vegetables. Vegetables, any more than animals, cannot live without air.—A plant, placed in an exhauſted receiver, quickly dies. Grain or graſs, the ſtalks whereof grow ſo cloſely compacted together that the air cannot circulate between them, falls down and periſhes. Potatoe vines, earthed up ſo high that the air cannot penetrate to the roots, will bear no fruit. An old apple tree, that is incruſted with a thick imporous bark, becomes barren; but ſcrape that bark off, ſo that the air ſhall intimately embrace its ſtock and enter its pores, and it will again bear.

A peſtiferous air, which is fatal to the health and lives of animals, has alſo a pernicious effect on the health of vegetables: Hence, peſtilence and death have often gone together. The Bohon Upas, or poiſon tree of Java, ſo poiſons the air, (as is reported,) that no other plant or vegetable grows within ſeveral miles of it. As blood, circulating from the heart over the whole frame, is the life of animals; ſo a fluid variouſly modified, circulating from their roots to their extremities, is the life of plants. When a large blood veſſel is broken and remains open, the animal dies; and when the veſſels of wheat or rye, in which the fluid circulates, are broken, an extravaſation enſues, and the grain periſhes: this is called a *mildew*.

As in animals, ſo in vegetables, there is a *ſexual* difference. Vegetables, as well as animals, require daily food: the food of the *former* is drawn from the earth and from the atmoſphere;—when this food is wholſome and plentiful, the plant thrives; but when it is either noxious or ſcanty, the plant ſickens or famiſhes.—Yet as animals ſometimes die of over-eating, ſo plants are ſometimes rendered unproductive by being placed where there is too great an abundance of vegetable food. Land may be rendered ſo rich with manures, that it would produce a luxuriant crop of ſtraw, with little or no grain.—A colt or any other young animal that is ſtunted, cannot eaſily be made to attain a full growth; and ſo it is with ſtunted vegetables. It is neceſſary often to *croſs the breed* of animals, to prevent their degenerating; and ſo alſo of vegetables, by a change of ſeed. As dwarfiſh or ſickly animals generally produce a dwarfiſh or ſickly offſpring; ſo the ſeeds of defective, languid vegetables or plants, (if they vegetate at all,) will yield a languid, defective progeny: it is as neceſſary for the farmer to cull ſeeds from the beſt and faireſt plants, as it is to make uſe of the beſt of his horſes and cattle for breeders.

The parallel between animals and vegetables might be eaſily extended to a variety of other inſtances.

Monitorial Department.

To aid the cauſe of virtue and religion.

A FATHER'S DYING ADVICE TO HIS SON.

SIR William Penn, who was an admiral of the Britiſh navy, during the protectorate of Cromwell, and in the reign of Charles II. gave the following as his dying advice to his ſon, William Penn, the celebrated founder of Pennſylvania.

"Three things (ſaid the dying admiral) I commend to you,

"1. Let nothing tempt you to wrong your conſcience: If you keep peace at home, it will be a feaſt to you in a day of trouble.

"2. Whatever you deſign to do, lay it juſtly, and time it ſeaſonably; for that gives ſecurity and diſpatch.

"3. Be not troubled at diſappointments: if they may be recovered, do it; if not, trouble is vain.

"Theſe rules will carry you with firmneſs and comfort through this inconſtant world."

Improvement.

The following certificates, ſigned by the Governor of Pennſylvania, the Spaniſh Ambaſſador, Dr. Logan, and many other gentlemen of the firſt reſpectability, will ſerve to ſhew the utility of

HOXIE's THRESHING MACHINE.

HAVING been gratified in witneſſing an exhibition of the principles and operation of "Hoxie's Threſhing Machine," and believing it calculated to threſh more wheat perfectly clean, with leſs expence (in any given time) than is promiſed by any other mode of threſhing, which we have any knowledge of, we have pleaſure in recommending it, as deſerving ſuch general preference, and patronage, as will inſure to its meritorious Inventor the meed he deſerves.

Philadelphia, June 1ſt, 1803.

(Signed)

Thomas M'Kean, Marquis de Caſa Yrujo, George Logan, Henry Paſchall, Tench Coxe, John Warder, Thomas Sinnickſon, H. Cadbury, Levi Hollingſworth, Thomas Dobſon, Andrew Bayard, William Read, Thomas Leiper, Nathan Sellers, Andrew Pettels, James Stokes, Samuel Meeker, Jeremiah Warder, John Bacon.

THE utility of this Machine to the farming intereſt muſt be evident to any perſon who ſees it, being far ſuperior to any thing of the kind heretofore introduced. The Machinery is ſo ſimple, that any perſon handy with carpenter's tools may erect one at a ſmall expence.—It will with the help of one horſe and two or three hands ſeperate more grain from the ſtraw than ten horſes can poſſibly do in the common way, as by the following certificate will more fully appear, viz.

"We the ſubſcribers have examined Hoxie's Threſhing Machine, now to be ſeen at Samuel Yarnall's, in Eaſton, and believe it to be the beſt invention for ſeperating all kinds of grain from the ſtraw we ever had any knowledge of; turned by two men in our preſence it ſeperated fourteen ſingle band ſheaves of Wheat from the ſtraw in a minute, (forty of which we ſuppoſe would make a buſhel) much cleaner than we ever experienced in the common mode.

Eaſton, Md. 21ſt 12th mo. 1802.

(Signed)

Edward Courſey, Owen Kennard, James Cowan, Samuel Yarnall, John Harwood, Robert Lloyd Nicolls, Henry Nichols, jun. Peter Denny, Robert Moore.

N. B. By placing the Machine over a Fan it will clean the grain as it falls from it without any additional labour.

☞ *Printers, whoſe ſubſcribers are many of them farmers, may do them an eſſential favor by giving place to the above information. Mr. Hoxie, the inventor of the Threſhing Machine, reſides in this city (Hudſon) and will freely communicate any information on the ſubject.*

Miscellany.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

BY JOHN PINTARD, ESQUIRE.

THE Miſſiſſippi, pronounced by the natives Meſehaſiopi, after a courſe of 3000 miles, and receiving the tributary ſtreams of the immenſe rivers Miſſouri, Cumberland, Tenneſſee, Ohio, and many others, all which far ſurpaſs in extent and magnitude, every river that empties into the Atlantic, the St. Lawrence excepted, diſembogues through ſeveral channels into the gulph of Mexico, in N. lat. 29, 3 and 89, 10 W. long. from Greenwich.

The approach to this river, by ſea, is known by an inſtant change in the colour of the water, from black or dark ſea green to whitiſh, next clayed and laſtly a very muddy, frothy water, with ſounding from 70 to 50 fathoms at about ten leagues from the coaſt, gradually diminiſhing to 4 fathoms at the diſtance of ten leagues, when the water becomes abruptly more diſcoloured and yellow. Directly off the mouth of the river the water reſembles dirty ſoap ſuds; every change of colour is ſtrongly diſtinguiſhed: you paſs through one into the other in an inſtant. The water at the mouth of the river is quite freſh. The pilots drink it, ſcooping it up in their hands, the uſual mode of allaying thirſt by all who navigate this immenſe river.

The entrance of the river is very difficult, there being no land marks along the coaſt, which is very low and ſcarcely diſcernable at four leagues diſtance. Should a veſſel fall in with the land on either ſide of the narrow or longation of the continent through which the Miſſiſſippi paſſes into the gulph of Mexico, ſhe will, in all probability, get embayed and be obliged to wait a change of wind ſeveral days to beat. This circumſtance very frequently happens.

The ſhores along the coaſts are lined with innumerable trees, which are conſtantly floating down the Miſſiſſippi. The appearance is not much unlike a vaſt maſt and ſpar yard. The trees are very large and in reaching the mouth of the river, are driven aſhore by the winds and tides; ſome are carried out to ſea, and are to be met with a great diſtance from land. Theſe trees accumulating, become a mound, which arreſts the muddy ſediment of the river, in proceſs of time form numerous ſmall iſlands, which conſtantly increaſing and uniting at length become part of the continent. This new land is firſt covered with ruſhes, reſembling elders, and laſtly, with aſh and other foreſt trees. The whole country bordering on the mouth of the Miſſiſſippi has been thus made; and the probability is, that all the land on both ſides of the river, from Iberville downwards, a diſtance between two and three hundred miles, has originated from the illuvious and depoſits of this muddy ſtream. It muſt require a conſiderable time ere this new land can become uſeful. Where the preſent Baliſe is erected, the ground was ſo low that earth wasbrought to elevate the foundation for the beacon, guard and pilot houſes. The ſcite of the old Baliſe, which was built in 1734 and at the mouth of the river, is now more than two miles above. The preſent Baliſe was conſtructed in 1756, by Don Antonia D'Ulloa, on a ſmall iſland near the ſoutheaſt entrance of the river; of which about thirty years before, there was not the leaſt appearance. In converſation with an experienced officer in the Spaniſh navy, a coloniſt of Louiſiana, on the ſubject of this prolongation of the continent, he informed the writer of theſe obſervations, that in the ſummer of 1800, he remarked a new iſland at the mouth of the river. That not many years ago, when lying at point La Hache, between the Baliſe and New-Orleans, a ſeaman died on board his ſhip—they ſent on ſhore to make a grave, but could not find ſufficient firm earth to bury him. This place is ſince become ſolid land. He could alſo recollect when Plaquemines, where the fort now ſtands, was a quagmire. Mr. Vandreuil, formerly governor of Louiſiana, in a letter, dated September 2, 1752, remarks—'There is infinite difficulty in ſettling towards the mouth of the river Miſſiſſippi, on account of the immenſe expence in banking againſt the inundation of the ſea and ſand floods. I am againſt ſettling it as yet, and for waiting until the ground be more raiſed by the acretion of ſoil, as it hath been three feet within the ſpace of 15 years.'

Every thing occurs to prove that this river has enlarged the continent nearly 100 leagues. Not a ſingle ſtone, nor even a pebble is to be found in all the new made ground. The ſea repelling that prodigious quantity of mud, leaves, boughs and trunks of trees, which the Miſſiſſippi is conſtantly waſhing down; all theſe materials conſtantly puſhing backward and forward collect and bind themſelves in a ſolid maſs, which thus tends to prolong this vaſt continent. Another ſtriking ſingularity, no where elſe to be met with, is that of the waters of this great river, when once it overflows its banks, never returns within its bed again. The reaſon is this:—The Miſſiſſippi is annually ſwelled by the melting of the ſnows in the north, which begins in March and continues about three months. This river lies very deep at the upper part, and does not overflow on the eaſt ſide until within 100 leagues of the mouth; that is to ſay on the low lands ſuppoſed to be new ground. Theſe muddy grounds like all others which have not yet acquired their due conſiſtence, bear a prodigious quantity of large reeds, which ſtop and entangle all extraneous bodies that are waſhed down the river. The collection of all theſe fragments, with the ſlime that fills up the intermediate ſpaces, raiſes in proceſs of time, the banks higher than the adjacent ground, ſo that the waters once overflowed, are prevented by this obſtacle from the poſſibility of returning to their natural channels, and are therefore compelled to force an outlet into the ſea by another courſe. The new lands and iſlands at the mouth of the Miſſiſſippi are ſaid to riſe and fall with the ſwelling and abating of the waters. This ſtory, however, wants confirmation.

From the aſtoniſhing length of the Miſſiſſippi and the vaſt bodies of water that flow into it, one is led to imagine that it muſt be proportionably broad. Every traveller is much ſurpriſed to find the direct contrary. Inſtead of entering an open extenſive bay, the mouth of the river is narrow and contracted; and through its whole courſe to New-Orleans, after paſſing La Loutre, ſcarcely exceeds half a mile in breadth. Oppoſite the city the river takes a conſiderable ſweep, forming a beautiful creſcent, along which New-Orleans is ſituated. At this place it may be about three quarters of a mile wide. The level or embankment which defends the town from the inundation of the Miſſiſſippi, is elevated about three feet above the ſurface of the country, over which the freſhes ſeldom or never riſe.—The difference between the greateſt height and loweſt ebb of the river is ſomewhere about fourteen feet perpendicular. The laſt two years the Miſſiſſippi had riſen ſo very inconſiderably, as to have excited much ſurprize and ſome conjectures that the waters of the Miſſouri had found a new channel to the ocean. This river it is which raiſes the former and diſcolors its ſtream—for before its junction with the Miſſouri, it was clear and limpid as the Ohio. The latter, although ſubject to great freſhes, has but little effect on the Miſſiſſippi.—The water of this river, notwithſtanding its being exceeding turbid, is nevertheleſs very palatable and wholeſome. It is uſed entirely at New-Orleans for drinking and culinary purpoſes. It is carted through the city in the ſame manner as the New-York tea water, and ſold at the rate of a penny a bucket or half a dollar a hogſhead: depoſited in a large earthern jar, it becomes after of a milky colour and is thus uſed. When filtered it becomes clear as

chriſtal; to drink it in this ſtate is a luxury not commonly enjoyed at New-Orleans. This river water is quite cool and though uſed at all times, and in the higheſt perſpiration by the boatmen and labourers, no ill conſequences enſue—its ſalubrity is ſuch, that the inhabitants who uſe it, are ſaid never to be afflicted with that excrutiating diſorder the gravel, nor be troubled with that loathſome infection the itch.

State Paper.

LOUISIANA.

MR. LIVINGSTON's MEMORIAL.

[CONCLUDED.]

Experience has proved, that two nations could not be neighbors without being rival; and if this be true of two neighboring nations, it may be ſaid with ſtill more truth of a colony formed by a great and powerful nation, removed from the metropolis, and of a people bordering on the territory of the other. The reaſon of this is plauſible; where two nations are neighbors every thing paſſes under the inſpection of the ſovereign; the quarrels are as ſoon extinguiſhed as kindled; but when the governor of a colony, calculating upon the protection of the metropolis, is guilty of an act of hoſtility, the wound gets gangrened before a phyſician can be called. The offended ſovereign, who alſo thinks that the offender will be ſo much the more ſtrongly ſupported, as his nation is more powerful, tries every means, in order to anticipate on the hoſtilities which he dreads, uſes repriſals, and both nations are at war before any explanation has taken place.

If there be a ſituation in the world which may be attended with theſe conſequences, it certainly is that of France, when ſhe is in poſſeſſion of New-Orleans. It is ſituaed in ſuch a manner as to block up the great paſſage towards the ſea, from a great number of States, and a very extenſive population which increaſes rapidly.

A military government is about to be eſtabliſhed on the Iſland. The General, proud, with reaſon, of the glory of his nation, will caſt on every thing that ſurrounds him a look of ſuperiority; commerce will be degraded; and merchants, ſubjected to the deſpotiſm of men who will ſeek in the laying up of riches, a recompence for their privations in the remote and inſalubrious country whither they are ſent. The colony preſents no lawful means of growing rich, except thoſe (ſlow and progreſſive) of commerce and agriculture—ill-ſuited means for ſoldiers. However vigilant the mother country, ſhe will not prevent, at that diſtance, the vexations which may be exerciſed. On the other hand, the government of the United States will not be able, in a thouſand inſtances, to reſtrain the petulance of the near inhabitants bordering on the limits of the Miſſiſſippi; to confine their vengeance wholly, and compel them to expect from diplomatic repreſentation a ſlow juſtice. Hatred will take place between the two people; the bonds of friendſhip will be deſtroyed, and the government of the United States, which ever ſhares the ſentiments of the people, will be forced, by its ſituation, to alter its political relations. Then, for the ſake of guarding themſelves againſt their old ally, for a pretended act of hoſtility, they will form a cautionary connexion with England, which will be ſedulous in obtaining her alliance, and will excite her reſentment againſt France; becauſe in that alliance ſhe will ſee the means of preſerving her commerce with America, which ſhe now poſſeſſes almoſt excluſively, ſecuring her colonies to be able, in caſe of war, to invade the French colonies, and eſpecially of preventing the union of the commerce and navy of France and the United States, upon which alone France can engraft her naval ſuperiority.

It may be aſked, why thoſe jealouſies which I ſeem ſo much to dread for France, have not taken place for England in poſſeſſion of Canada? firſt, becauſe Great-Britain has prudently ſeparated her territory by a natural limit which prevents the contact of the two nations. While ſhe occupied the weſtern poſts, the United States ſaw her with jealouſy, and it is beyond doubt that hoſtilities and a national hatred would have been the conſequence when the increaſe of American population in that part had taken place; when thoſe forts were given up, numerous ſymptoms had already manifeſted themſelves.

Secondly, becauſe the uſual road of the exports from the United States, being made, through their own rivers, there is an important communication between them and Canada.

But it is chiefly becauſe Upper Canada is inhabited by American emigrants, who, in caſe of a rupture would join, according to all appearances, to the United States, had not the ſpirit of their government been to prevent the extending of their limits.

But after all, what political or commercial advantage can France receive from the poſſeſſion of New-Orleans, and of the Eaſt Bank of the Miſſiſſippi, that may balance the loſs, which, in theſe two points of view, ſhe will ſuſtain in the rivalry with the United States? The Floridas are a narrow ſtrip of barren land, incapable of defence in caſe of a rupture, and which will coſt more than it is worth to guard, garriſon, and the preſents to the Indian Tribes.

—However advantageous New-Orleans might be for the United States, it will be of very inconſiderable value to France, when the foreign capitals ſhall be taken from it, or a rival city ſhall be eſtabliſhed on the American ſide. From the beſt information, I find that one third of the beſt commercial houſes employed in New-Orleans, are American.—No ſooner will a military government be eſtabliſhed in the country, than all theſe commercial houſes, with the capitals which ſupport them, will paſs into the United States, to that place aſſigned them by the treaty with Spain, or to the Natchez, where every veſſel which may go to New-Orleans may be received. Large veſſels, from France, have already arrived there, and unloaded their cargoes without difficulty, and as the ſoil is ſo much the more advantageous as we penetrate further, there is very little doubt this eſtabliſhment will ſoon rival that of New-Orleans, when the American capitals ſhall have been taken out of it. When the United States ſhall have declared the Natchez a free port, New-Orleans will be very little as a place of commerce, and only an object of uſeleſs expenſe for France, and an inexhauſtible ſource of jealouſy between France and the United States.

The ceſſion of Louiſiana is nevertheleſs very important to France, if ſhe applies it to the only uſe which ſound policy ſeems to dictate. I ſpeak of Louiſiana alone, and by this I do not mean to comprehend the Floridas, becauſe I think they are no part of the ceſſion. As it can, by this ceſſion, acquire the right of carrying on the Miſſiſſippi, a free trade, if ſhe knows how to profit of this circumſtance, by a perfect underſtanding with the United States, ſhe will find markets for a very great variety of articles, when ſhe has accuſtomed the inhabitants of the Weſtern countries to prefer them to the Engliſh, which ſhe can only obtain by ſelling them cheaper, and ſhe can only ſell them cheaper, by intereſting the American merchants to ſell them, to have the uſe of their capitals, and by engaging the government of the United States to give them the preference. All this can take place only by the ceſſion of New-Orleans to the United States, *with the reſerve of the right of entry, at all times free from all other duties than thoſe paid by American veſſels, together with the right of navigation on the Miſſiſſippi.** This would give her veſſels an advantage over the veſſels of all other nations, will retain and even increaſe the capitals of New-Orleans, where the proviſions for the iſlands will be bought at the cheapeſt rate poſſible, and where the articles of her manufactures will be introduced in the weſtern countries;—The United States will have no in-

* *It is probable this is a condition of the ceſſion.*

tereſt in preventing it for every reaſon of rivalry will be removed. Then France will command reſpect without inſpiring fear to the two nations whoſe friendſhip is the moſt important for her commerce, and the preſervation of her iſlands; and all theſe advantages will be obtained without the expenſe of eſtabliſhments which ruin the public treaſure, and divert capitals from their true object.

But if, on the one ſide, France keeps New-Orleans by attempting to colonize Louiſiana, ſhe will become an object of jealouſy to Spain, the United States and England, which powers will not only diſcourage her commerce, but will compel her to make expenſive eſtabliſhments to ſecure the poſſeſſion of it.

In the foregoing obſervations I have confined myſelf to obſervations which preſented themſelves, without having recourſe to ſubtilties, which only ſerve to miſlead the judgment. I have expoſed ſimple facts with candour and all the ſimplicity of language. If a reply is made, it will be by purſuing a contrary courſe. With eloquence and ſophiſtry they may be combatted and obſcured; time and experience will demonſtrate their ſolidity.

Be it our weekly task,
To note the passing tidings of the times.

Hudson, *Auguſt* 2, 1803.

INTERESTING DECISION.

In the caſe of *David Denniſton* vs. *Dennis Cole*, both of the county of Orange, the defendant having been arreſted and held to bail in the ſum of 480 dollars, cited the plaintiff before his Honor Judge Gardener, to ſhew cauſe of action. The Plaintiff, in the uſual manner, made out his affidavit; But *Fiſk*, counſel for defendant, objected to Mr. Denniſton's oath, on the ſcore of his principles, having underſtood that he neither believed in a Supreme Being nor in a future ſtate of rewards and puniſhments. The plaintiff was then aſked by the Court on theſe two points; to the firſt he ſaid he did believe in a Supreme Being; the ſecond queſtion he declined anſwering —By the Court: The oath cannot be taken—let the defendant be diſcharged from the arreſt on filing common bail.—Roſs for plaintiff, Fiſk for defendant.

We underſtand that the Theiſtical Societies of this city have had an extra meeting on the above, and have voted to reſiſt the deciſion to their utmoſt, as *an attack upon their religious principles!* [*Ev. Poſt.*]

A letter received at Peck's Coffee-houſe Baltimore, dated Cape-Francois, July 1ſt, 1803, ſays—The American brig Succeſs, capt. Novao, arrived here on the 26th June from the Havanna, with 540 blood-hounds, and the Brigands that have been taken have been given to them, whom they inſtantly devoured. Troops arrive daily, but the fever cuts them off beyond all deſcription. Jeremie has been cloſely beſieged. Four French ſchooners arrived here from thence full of inhabitants (women and children) but an arrival laſt night brings the intelligence that the Brigands were defeated with loſs."

[*Evening Poſt.*]

Arrived at Alexandria on Wedneſday laſt, the brig Active, Capt Haines, in 12 days from Cape-Francois—When captain H. ſailed, the Cape was cloſely beſieged on the land ſide by the Brigands, within a mile of the town, and blockaded by four Engliſh 74 gun ſhips, a frigate, brig and ſchooner. It was ſuppoſed they would ſurrender the Cape to the Britiſh in a few days. Gen. Rochambeau had eſtabliſhed his Head-quarters there. The Mole and Port-au-Prince was ſo cloſely hemmed in by the Brigands, that the inhabitants could not go half a mile out without being murdered.

The war is carried on between the French and Brigands with every ſpecies of barbarity their ſavage minds can invent. When the brigands take a priſoner they put him between two planks and faſten him with cords ſo that he cannot move, and then take a croſs cut ſaw and ſaw him nearly aſſunder in different places ſo as to terminate his exiſtence in the moſt barbarous manner—and the French in their turn when they take a priſoner tie him neck and heels, and throw him into a place where they have a parcel of half ſtarved blood-hounds to be torn to pieces by them.

[*Ibid.*]

LONDON, MAY 25.

The firſt act of the war on the part of the Firſt Conſul has been, not to meet us manfully at ſea, not to carry on hoſtilities in the way adopted between civilized nations; but to make an attack upon the perſons and liberty of thoſe whom he was bound by all the laws of hoſpitality to reſpect—*He has ſeized and impriſoned all our countrymen and women in France!!!*

The mails between the two countries having been ſtoped, a packet ſailed on Friday from Dover as a flag of truce. When ſhe arrived at Calais, ſhe found that two of the Engliſh packet boats had been ſeized, and the men impriſoned. She was informed alſo, that the Firſt Conſul had iſſued a decree to the following effect:

"That every Britiſh ſubject of an age not under 18 nor exceeding 60, or bearing a commiſſion under his Britannic majeſty, who is at preſent in France, ſhall immediately be conſidered priſoners of war, to anſwer for ſuch citizens of the French republic, as ſhall have been detained and made priſoners by the veſſels and ſubjects of his Britannic majeſty."

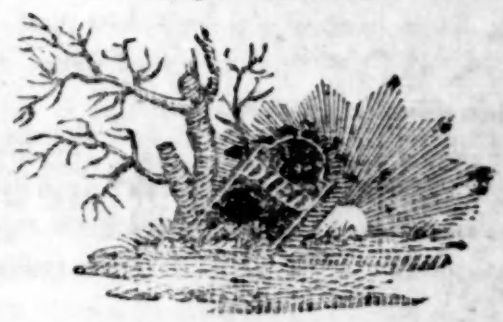
In conſequence of the above decree, Mr. Talbot, the ſecretary to the Britiſh legation, who had arrived at Calais on his return to this country, was not allowed to embark. The Earl of Yarmouth, Sir James Crawford, Mr. Cobourn, and two other Engliſhmen, are alſo detained at Calais. We have not heard whether they have been ſent to priſon or not. The captain of the Auckland packet, which returned on Saturday afternoon from Calais, bro't over diſpatches from Mr. Talbot, informing his majeſty's miniſters of his detention.

At Paris, it is ſaid by ſome, that the Engliſh gentlemen have been ſent to the Temple, the Conciergerie, and other priſons, and the ladies to Fontainebleau. Other accounts ſtate, that both men and women have been ordered to repair to Fontainebleau. At Dunkirk all the Engliſh, we underſtand, have been put in priſon.

MAY 28.

A Letter of this morning from Portſmouth, ſtates the arrival yeſterday of the ſquadron under Sir Roger Curtis from the cape of Good Hope, and of that ſquadron having taken yeſterday at *noon*, a French Eaſt-India ſhip, eſtimated at one hundred thouſand pounds value. The ſame letter brings an account of the capture of the Hazard ſloop of war, which event Sir Roger Curtis learned from La Minerve at ſea.

The Knell.



In this city, on Thurſday laſt, after a ſhort and very ſevere illneſs, Mr. EPHRAIM WILLIAMS, aged 36.

To Readers & Correſpondents.

The communications of "WASHINGTON" contain many correct ſentiments; but they are in ſome reſpects objectionable. We think the publication of them would be improper.

A crowd of other matter, which is of more importance to the public, renders it neceſſary to delay noticing Mr. Spencer's note in the Bee, till our next.

The Wreath.

FOR THE BALANCE.

THE COMPLAINT.

DOES Spring to others joy impart ?
Does pleasure reign in every heart ,
And every soul refine ?
While I no respite find from care ;
But doom'd a victim to despair,
In secret sorrow pine.
For me, in vain, the opening flowers
Perfume the vernal air ;
In vain expand the rural bowers—
I find no pleasure there.
The cheerful Robin sweetly sings—
The Linnet strains her throat—
The night-hawk too its tribute brings,
In a discordant note :
Thus all creation hails the coming day ;
Each mind is cheerful and each scene is gay ;
But, ah ! no scene, nor object can convey
Of bliss to me one solitary ray.

At night, when nature is at rest,
With grief still rankling in my breast,
I seek some lone retreat ;
Kind fancy then exerts her power,
And bids me hope an happier hour
Once more in life to meet ;
But, as in some fond dream inspir'd,
We grasp at promis'd joy,
And wake, but find it far retir'd,
A visionary toy—
So transient are my hopes that rise—
Like dreams they pass away ;
And leave me nought but tears and sighs,
To hail the dawning day.
There was a time, when sorrow was unknown,
When my young heart, no cruel pang could own ;
But now, no comfort meets my eager view ,—
My soul to rapture long has bid adieu.

JULIENNE.

Kingston, Ulster County.

FROM THE PORT FOLIO.

THE FAIR EQUIVOQUE.

AN EPIGRAM.

AS blooming Harriet mov'd along,
The fairest of the beauteous throng,
The beaux gaz'd on with admiration,
Avow'd, by many an exclamation,
What form ! what *naivete !* what grace !
What roses deck that Grecian face !
" Nay, Dashwood cries, that bloom's not Harriet's
'Twas bought at Reynold's, More's, or Marriot's
And, though you own her face untainted,
I swear by G——, your beauty's painted."
A wager instantly was laid,
And Ranger sought the lovely maid ;
The pending bet he soon reveal'd,
Nor even the impious oath conceal'd.
Confus'd her cheek bore witness true,
By turns the roses came and flew,
" Your bet, she said, is rudely odd—
But I am painted, sir—*by* God !"

Diversity.

TRAIT OF OLD TIMES.

A LAW to promote and enforce industry, especially *spinning*, passed by the Legislature of Massachusetts, in the year 1665.

" Be it enacted by the authority of this court, that all hands, not necessarily employed on other occasions, as women, girls and boys, shall be, and hereby are, enjoyned to spinn, according to their skill and ability : and that the select men in every town, do consider the condition and capacity of every family, and accordingly do assess at one or more spinners ; and because several families are necessarily imployed the greatest part of their time, in other busines, yet, if opportunities were attended, some time might be spared at least by some of them for this work, the said select men shall therefore assess such at half and quarter spinners according to their capacities. And every one thus aforesaid for a whole spinner, shall for time to come, spin every year for thirty weeks, three pound a week of linen, cotton, or woolen, and so proportionably for half and quarter spinners, under the penalty of twelve pence a pound short : and the select men shall take special care for the execution of the order, which may easily be effected, by dividing their several towns into ten, six, five &c. parts, and to appoint one of the ten, six, five &c. to take an account of their divisions, and to certify the select men if any be defective in what they are assessed, who shall improve the penalties, imposed on such as are negligent, for the encouragement of those who are diligent in this work."

THE USE OF LONG BEARDS.

BENJAMIN LAY, a violent sectarian, was ornamented with a long bushy beard ; as he had conscientiously refused to suffer such a carnal weapon as a razor to touch his face. Benjamin, in his zeal, used sometimes to disturb the public worship of episcopalians and other people, whom he deemed to be anti-christian. It once happened that, while a congregation was going out of a church-house, Benjamin who had stood at the door, on the outside, during service, loudly exclaimed, " How can you, by such preaching as you have now been hearing, distinguish the sheep from the goats ?" A facetious gentleman, stepping up to him and taking him by the beard, replied, " We distinguish the goats, Benjamin, by their *beards*."

ANECDOTE,

OF GOV. CLINTON'S NEWLY APPOINTED JUSTICE.

A COUPLE lately presented themselves before a justice of the peace of a neighbouring county, *of the new sect*, for the purpose of being married. In endeavouring to read the ceremony, difficulties occurred which were evidently to be traced to a want of education, and his Negro Man, who had been taught to read by a *former master*, prepared for this event, generously releived him from his embarrassment by taking the book and performing the ceremony himself ! If any person should doubt this, the names of the married couple, *the Negro*, and the Justice can be given.

" Is he honest, *is he capable*, is he a friend to the constitution ?" are questions asked now a days. The above is a fine practical comment upon the text. Read the above ye admirers of Jefferson and Tom Paine and others of the holy sect—read and, if possible, blush !

[*Utica Patriot.*]

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